

Johann, Carl,

This is in response to your request for comments on the recent Black & Veatch draft RETI report (Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative, Phase 1A).

I am concerned that the current draft does not recognize environmental resources, and that these resources will be overshadowed by simpler economic analysis. Such lack of recognition is understandable, since knowledge of the environmental resources is somewhat of a specialty, whereas economic analysis is easier in concept and recognition. Nonetheless, environmental resources are there, they are real, often fragile, and have substantial value now and in the future. Responsible analysis demands they be considered.

Environmental considerations take many forms, each impacting different parts of the desert areas being considered for renewable energy. The Center for Biological Diversity has been involved in desert issues for a long time, and to visualize the complexity has collected a large amount of data in the form of GIS layers representing the various considerations.

The RETI process (e.g., Black & Veatch reports) must give as much weight to the environmental concerns as to the economic. To help them, please encourage the use of the CBD data. I am sure the CBD would be willing to share their information. The contact there would be Ileene Anderson.

I would emphasize that these environmental concerns must be considered as important as economic concerns. The current Black & Veatch output does not do this.

Regards,

Tom Budlong

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